

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A final drive assembly for transmitting torque between an input and an output, said final drive comprising: a compound gear assembly including at least three planetary gear trains and being in driving engagement with the input, each planetary gear train of said at least three planetary gear trains being adapted to ~~coactively~~ collectively and drivingly engage the output directly, wherein torque generated by the input is distributed to the output by said each of said planetary gear trains;

the compound gear assembly comprising a first planetary gear train, a second planetary gear train and a third planetary gear train;

each of the first, second and third planetary gear trains including a sun gear, a ring gear and a planetary carrier; and

wherein the ring gears of the second and third planetary gear trains and the planetary carrier of the first planetary gear train are connected to the output.

2. (Original) The final drive assembly of claim 1, wherein the output consists of a wheel assembly having a rim assembly, said at least three planetary gear trains are substantially enclosed by said rim assembly.

3. (Previously presented) The final drive assembly of claim 2, wherein at least one of said at least three planetary gear trains is positioned inboard relative to said wheel assembly.

4. (Original) The final drive assembly of claim 1, wherein the input includes one of an electric drive motor, a hydraulic motor, an internal combustion engine and a hybrid source.

5. (Previously presented) The final drive assembly of claim 1, wherein said compound gear assembly includes an outboard planetary gear train drivingly engaged by the input.

6. (Currently amended) The final drive assembly of claim 1, wherein ~~said compound gear assembly comprises a first planetary gear train, a second planetary gear train and a third planetary gear train, said first, second and third planetary gear trains each respectively includes a sun gear, said sun gears of said second and third planetary gear trains are coaxially positioned.~~

7. (Currently amended) The final drive assembly of claim 6, wherein ~~each of said first, second and third planetary gear trains includes said sun gear, a ring gear and a planetary carrier,~~ the input is drivingly engaged with said sun gear of said first planetary gear train, said ring gear of said first planetary gear train is connected with said sun gear of said second planetary gear train, and said planetary carrier of said

second planetary gear train is connected with said sun gear of said third planetary gear train, ~~said ring gears of said second and third planetary gear trains and said planetary carrier of said first planetary gear train are connected to the output.~~

8. (Original) The final drive assembly of claim 6, wherein said first planetary gear train is adapted to be driven by the input and said third planetary gear train includes a portion thereof adapted to be grounded through a reaction member.

9. (Original) The final drive assembly of claim 1, wherein a speed modification ratio between the input and output generated through the compound gear assembly is at least 49:1.

10. (Currently amended) A machine having an input, comprising:
at least one output; and
at least one final drive assembly structured and arranged to transmit rotation between the input and the output, said final drive assembly including a compound gear assembly comprising at least three planetary gear trains and being in driving engagement with the input, ~~each planetary gear train of said at least three planetary gear trains being adapted to coactively and~~ collectively drivingly engage said output directly, wherein torque generated by the input is distributed to said output by said each of said planetary gear trains;

the compound gear assembly comprising a first planetary gear train, a second planetary gear train and a third planetary gear train;

wherein each of the first, second and third planetary gear trains including
a sun gear, a ring gear and a planetary carrier; and
the input drivingly engaging the sun gear of the first planetary gear train;
wherein the ring gear of the first planetary gear train is connected with the
sun gear of the second planetary gear train.

11. (Original) The machine of claim 10, wherein said output of said at least one final drive assembly includes a wheel assembly having a rim assembly, said at least three planetary gear trains are substantially enclosed by said rim assembly.

12. (Previously presented) The machine of claim 11, wherein at least one of said at least three planetary gear trains of said at least one final drive assembly is positioned inboard relative to said wheel assembly.

13. (Original) The machine of claim 10, wherein the input includes one of an electric drive motor, a hydraulic motor and a hybrid source.

14. (Previously presented) The machine of claim 10, wherein said compound gear assembly of said at least one final drive assembly includes an outboard planetary gear train drivingly engaged by the input.

15. (Currently amended) The machine of claim 10, wherein ~~said compound gear assembly of said at least one final drive assembly comprises a first~~

~~planetary gear train, a second planetary gear train and a third planetary gear train, said~~
~~first, second and third planetary gear trains each respectively includes a sun gear, said~~
sun gears of said second and third planetary gear trains are coaxially positioned.

16. (Currently amended) The machine of claim 15, wherein ~~each of~~
~~said first, second and third planetary gear trains of said at least one final drive assembly~~
~~includes said sun gear, a ring gear and a planetary carrier, the input is drivingly~~
~~engaged with said sun gear of said first planetary gear train, said ring gear of said first~~
~~planetary gear train is connected with said sun gear of said second planetary gear train,~~
said planetary carrier of said second planetary gear train is connected with said sun
gear of said third planetary gear train, said ring gears of said second and third planetary
gear trains and said planetary carrier of said first planetary gear train are connected to
the output.

17. (Original) The machine of claim 15, wherein said first planetary
gear train of said at least one final drive assembly is adapted to be driven by the input
and said third planetary gear train includes a portion thereof adapted to be grounded
through a reaction member.

18. (Original) The machine of claim 10, wherein a speed modification
ratio between the input and output generated through the compound gear assembly of
said at least one final drive assembly is at least 49:1.

19. (Previously presented) The final drive assembly of claim 1, wherein said at least three planetary gear trains have approximately equal gear ratios.

20. (Currently amended) A final drive assembly for transmitting torque between an input and an output, said final drive comprising:

a compound gear assembly including at least three planetary gear trains and being in driving engagement with the input, each planetary gear train of said at least three planetary gear trains being adapted to coactively and drivingly engage the output, and an outboard planetary gear train of said at least three planetary gear trains being directly and drivingly engaged by the input, wherein torque generated by the input is distributed to the output by said each of said at least three planetary gear trains;

wherein the compound gear assembly comprises a first planetary gear train, a second planetary gear train and a third planetary gear train;

each of the first, second and third planetary gear trains including a sun gear, a ring gear and a planetary carrier;

the input being drivingly engaged by the sun gear of the first planetary gear train; and

the planetary carrier of the first planetary gear train being connected to the output.